



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
STATE COUNCIL  
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES  
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543  
February 26, 2024

The Honorable Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
The Thirty-Second Legislature  
State Capitol  
State of Hawai'i  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Yamashita and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB2216 HD1 RELATING TO CARE HOMES

The Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities **supports HB2216**, which increases the cap on state supplemental payments for type I adult residential care homes, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary homes, community care foster family homes, certified adult foster homes, and type II adult residential care homes.

This measure aligns with the Council's mission to advocate for policies that enhance the quality of life and support services for individuals with developmental disabilities across our state. By raising the cap on state supplemental payments, HB2216 HD1 addresses a critical need within our community. Many individuals with developmental disabilities rely on these care homes for essential support and services to meet their daily living needs. However, the current cap on state supplemental payments often falls short of covering the actual costs incurred by these care providers, leading to financial strain and potential disruptions in care delivery.

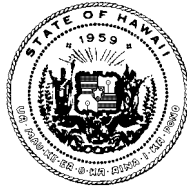
Increasing the cap on state supplemental payments will help ensure that care homes can continue to provide high-quality services to individuals with developmental disabilities without facing undue financial burdens. This measure not only supports the sustainability of care homes but also promotes the well-being and stability of the individuals they serve. Access to adequate funding is crucial for maintaining a robust care infrastructure that meets the diverse and evolving needs of our population of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB2216 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Daintry Bartoldus  
Executive Administrator

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**  
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA  
Office of the Director  
P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 25, 2024

To: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2216 HD1 – RELATING TO CARE HOMES.**

Hearing: February 26, 2024, 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 308, State Capitol & Video Conference

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure and offers comments.

**PURPOSE:** This measure increases the cap on state supplemental payments for type I adult residential care homes, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary homes, community care foster family homes, certified adult foster homes, and type II adult residential care homes. (HD1)

The Committee on Human Services amended this measure by making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

DHS supports the proposed increase of the SSP care rate by \$132.10 to \$784.00 for type I and \$892.00 for type II settings. Increasing the monthly SSP rates by these amounts will not require an additional general fund appropriation, as long as the current program budget appropriation is not reduced as the State and County of Maui grapple with Maui Wildfire recovery efforts.

Notably, the State Supplemental Payment (SSP) appropriation is used for the following:

- Domiciliary care payments, as specified in section 346-53(c), HRS;
- PNA for individuals residing in settings as specified in section 346D-4.5, HRS; and
- Administrative fees paid to the Social Security Administration (SSA) to add SSP amounts to each individual's monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) check.

DHS comments that this measure is similar to SB 849 SD1 and HB HB1974 HD1 in that it proposes to increase the monthly State Supplemental Payments (SSP). However, it differs from them in that this bill does not include an increase to the monthly personal needs allowance (PNA).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

Community Home Care  
Association of Hawaii  
94-1005 Maikai Street, Waipahu HI 96797

To: **Chair Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair, Rep. Lisa Kitagawa and Members of the Committees:**

From: Lemmy Mabuti, President of the Community Home Care Association

Subject: **RELATING TO CARE HOMES**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 26, 2024, 10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room #308, State Capitol

**TESTIMONY: STRONGLY IN SUPPORT – HB 2216**

We submit testimony as a coalition in support to HB 2216.

Adult Foster Homecare Association – Maribel Tan – President  
United Community Healthcare of Hawaii – Carina Ocampo - president  
Alliance of Professional Primary Care - Elma Tierra - president  
Association of Care Administrators - Wynette Gaylor – president  
The Primary Care Provider – Medy De Lara – president  
& me Community Home Care Association – President

We are the presidents from six Associations representing nearly 90% of the community caregiver industry.

We Support HB 2216 which increases the cap on state supplemental payments for ARCH 1, ARCH 2, & CCFFH. The high cost of living here in Hawaii have escalated over the years. It's just so difficult financially for caregivers to survive especially with the cost of rental housing, food.

We save the state of Hawaii significant amount of money for providing care to our Kupuna's and disabled. It's time for the State of Hawaii to think about us so that we can continue to take care of our vulnerable elderly and disabled.

For the reasons provided, we request that you pass HB 2216

Very truly yours,

Lemmy Maluyo-Mabuti, president  
Community Home Care Association  
Lemmyma02@yahoo.com



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[facebook.com/AARPHawaii](https://facebook.com/AARPHawaii)

**The State Legislature  
House Committee on Finance  
Monday, February 24, 2024  
Conference Room 308, 10:00 a.m.**

TO: The Honorable Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
FROM: Keali'i Lopez, State Director, AARP Hawai'i  
RE: Support for H.B. 2216 HD1 Relating to Care Homes

Aloha Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keali'i Lopez, and I am the State Director for AARP Hawai'i. AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization that advocates for individuals age 50 and older. We have a membership of nearly 38 million nationwide and nearly 140,000 in Hawaii. We advocate at the state and federal level for the issues that matter most to older adults and their families.

**AARP supports H.B. 2216 HD1 which increases the cap on the state supplemental payments for type 1 adult residential care homes, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary home, community care foster family and adult homes, and type II adult residential care home.**

Hawaii's 1,600+ foster family and adult residential and domiciliary homes for our older and disabled adults are an integral part of our long term care system. These HCBS providers provide over 8,300 beds which are twice the number of the beds provided by the 46 licensed nursing home facilities in state. These HCBS residences are cost-effective, high quality and support people's preference to age in a home-like setting. Increasing the supplemental payment cap is long overdue. With the rising cost of living, these dedicated providers deserve this increase so that they can continue to care for Hawaii's aging population.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2216, HD1.



**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF H.B. 2216, HD1 RELATED TO CARE HOMES**

To: Chair Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice-Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance

From: The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights  
Co-Chairs Amy Agbayani and Pat McManaman

The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights works to achieve equity, justice, and inclusion, uphold civil rights, and eliminate discrimination. We stand in support of **HB2216 HD1** and believe it is imperative to increase the cap on State supplemental payments for Type 1 adult residential care homes, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary homes, community care foster family and adult homes, and type II adult residential care homes.

Collectively these care homes provide care for over 1,600 foster families and adult residential and domiciliary care for our older and disabled adults. These homes are an essential component of our long-term care system and provide over 8,300 beds, twice the number of beds provided by Hawai'i's 46 licensed nursing home facilities.<sup>1</sup>

Additionally, as noted by the testimony from the Department of Human Services (DHS), these costs can be absorbed by the DHS without additional increases to their budget.<sup>2</sup> This is a win-win for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

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<sup>1</sup> AARP Hawaii, Testimony dated 1/30/2024

<sup>2</sup> The Department of Human Services, Testimony dated 1/28/2024

# ADULT FOSTER HOMECARE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

P.O. Box 970092, Waipahu, Hawai'i 96797

February 26, 2024

Maribel Tan  
President

**Testimony in Strong Support of HB2216, HD1** – FIN – 2/26/24, 10:00 a.m., Rm. 308  
(Testifier to Appear via Videoconference)

Chair Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Committees:

The Adult Foster Homecare Association of Hawaii (AFHA) **strongly supports HB2216, HD1**, which increases the cap on state supplemental payments for certain Medicaid home and community based services including community care foster family homes (CCFFHs).

For over 15 years, we have been coming before you in good faith asking for adjustments in our compensation rates because the cost of providing services to Medicaid clients have increased. No action has been taken.

Meanwhile, our operators most of whom are immigrants have borne the brunt of inflation and have been forced to make ends meet. Can you name me anything (food, gas, etc.) whose price has not changed in 15 years?

We provide around-the-clock care to the Medicaid population, who would otherwise be the state's responsibility, but the state has not been fair to those who provide the services. We are just expected to provide the same or even more services for the same rate for the last 15 years.

We are reaching our breaking point. As the population ages with the retirement of baby boomers, the demand for our services continues to increase. Many of our caregivers are baby boomers and may soon retire. What is the plan for our industry? What else can we do to get the state to help us? Lifting the cap on state supplemental payments is one place to start. Let's start somewhere. Be the leaders who recognize the value of the services we provide and do something.

Please SUPPORT HB 2216. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

Maribel Tan  
President

## About AFHA

The Adult Foster Home Association of Hawaii (AFHA) is the industry trade association of providers under the Community Care Foster Family Home program under the Department of Human Services, State of Hawaii. With a membership of almost 1,000 providers, AFHA's mission is to promote the interests of providers as well as resident clients. AFHA members provide 24-hour care to resident clients 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

**HB-2216-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 10:13:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judy Canlas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Being a Foster Home Caregiver is not easy and living in this economy as well. High cost of living pushes us to the limit with the pay we're getting. It is not enough to support our families and clients needs. So please support this bill and pass it so we can serve the community better. Thank you.



**HB-2216-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 10:22:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeannie Abero	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jeannie Abero. I've been a caregiver for 20 years. I am supporting bill HB2215.

I cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us an increase because inflation is high and the money we are receiving is not enough to support our families.

**HB-2216-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 8:36:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
claribel cabantog	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Rep. Kyle Yamashita ( Chairman) and Rep. Lisa Kitagawa (Vice Chairman) on Committee on Finance,

As a caregiver for almost 17 years it's been so hard to keep our Foster Carehome open. There are times the client that we're getting is like for 2 people assist and our pay is not adequate for the work we do 24/7. Most of the caregivers struggle to pay rent, mortgage and pay bills (especially if they have kids that goes to college) My business is located at my home residence so I can take care of my parents, kids and work from home all at once. The cost of living here in Hawaii is too high and we cannot afford to pay substitute caregivers for the amount we get, \$44.16 per day. Can you please help us caregivers to get a raise for the work we provide for our Kupuna.

Mahalo for all your time and consideration for this matter.

Sincerely,

Claribel Cabantog - CCFFH PRIMARY Caregiver

(808-469-5607)

**HB-2216-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 5:49:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruthie Agbayani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am in full support of HB2215.**

**Hawai'i's cost of living has increased exponentially.**

**Inflation on basic needs is a hardship on quality health & wellness of the care recipients, the caregivers, and their families.**

**If minimum wage of workers needs to be increased to \$14.00 per hour (effective 1/1/2024 according to the Department of Labor), then the Departments of Health and Human Services has far too long undervalued its Home & Community Based Program caregivers with less than \$2.00 per hour for 24 hours, 7 days a week of nursing home level care.**

**HB-2216-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 1:54:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2024 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nenita Gouveia	AFHA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a caregiver for the past 18 years, I have dedicated my life to providing quality care for those in need. My name is Nenita Gouveia, and I have seen firsthand the challenges and struggles that caregivers face every day. That is why I wholeheartedly endorse HB2216, which aims to provide fair compensation for caregivers like me who often receive inadequate pay for our services.

Many caregivers, including myself, struggle to make ends meet with the current compensation we receive. This is simply not enough to cover all our expenses, including bills, food, housing, and other necessities. With the rising cost of living, it has become even more challenging to make a living as a caregiver. Despite this, we are expected to deliver high-quality care to our clients. But how can we do that when we are struggling to make ends meet?

Caregiving is not just a job; it is a calling. We are driven by our passion to help those in need and provide them with the best care possible. However, this does not mean that we should be exploited and underpaid for our hard work. As caregivers, we perform vital labor that requires a high level of expertise, commitment, and accountability. Therefore, it is only fair that we are compensated equitably for our services.

HB2216 is a step in the right direction towards recognizing the value of caregivers and ensuring that we are fairly compensated for our work. It is time for our society to acknowledge the crucial role that caregivers play in our healthcare system and provide them with the support and compensation they deserve. As a caregiver, I urge all to support this bill and help improve the lives of caregivers who selflessly dedicate themselves to caring for others.

LATE \*Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

Chair Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa and all Committees:

I am Leticia Dagulo, caregiver for 20 years. I am in support for HB 2216 which increases the cap on state supplemental payments for type 1 adult residential care homes, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary homes, community care foster family homes, certified adult foster homes and type 11 adult residential care homes.

I cannot continue doing this business if you will not give us increase

because of high inflation. The cost of food, shelter, gas, electricity, and other necessities is skyrocketing. The payment for services we are receiving for our Medicaid Client is not enough to support our families.

May I request that you pass HB2216

Sincerely,



Leticia Dagulo

